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'PARKS' AND CRAFTS

Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman reunite for 'Making It.' 18-19

ISTOCK

3-D gun downloads blocked by state. 6

Macnow: Early Cowboys' dysfunction a delight to Eagles fans. 20

ICE-D OUT?

City Hall agreed to stop sharing arrest data with ICE, but Occupy ICE Philly protesters aren't done. 4

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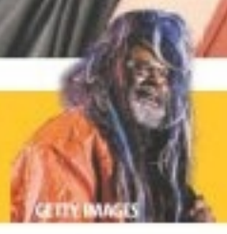

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George Clinton's final funky ride. 16-17

5 THINGS TO KNOW

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

Mayor Kenney sided with immigration activists and Occupy ICE Philadelphia protesters when he decided to end an arrest data-sharing contract with ICE, which enforces immigration violations in Philly. But the fight isn't over, as Occupy ICE protesters have moved just a few blocks and are reforming to focus on new social justice goals. Read more on page 4 and on **metrophilly.us.**

1 SCOTUS DENIES TRUMP BID TO HALT CLIMATE CHANGE

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected a bid by President Donald Trump's administration to put the brakes on a lawsuit filed by young activists who have accused the U.S. government of ignoring the perils of climate change. In the lawsuit, 21 activists, ages 11 to 22, said federal officials violated their rights to due process under the U.S. Constitution by failing to adequately address carbon pollution such as emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. The lawsuit was filed in 2015 against former President Barack Obama and government agencies in a federal court in Oregon. In a 2016 ruling, a judge allowed the case to proceed, prompting the government to appeal. The Trump administration, inheriting the case, had asked for the lawsuit to be thrown out or put on hold. The brief unsigned order said the Trump administration's request was premature. The court did, however, note that the claims made in the ambitious lawsuit are "striking" and the question of whether they can be considered by a jury "presents substantial grounds for difference of opinion."

2 CBS CEO MOONVES SURVIVES BOARD MEETING

CBS Corp's board left embattled Chief Executive Leslie Moonves in his post on Monday as it discussed sexual harassment claims against him and took steps to select an outside counsel to lead an independent investigation into the matter. It was not immediately clear if Moonves would stay on for the duration of the investigation or whether discussions were taking place for him to step aside. Moonves, 68, is one of the global media industry's highest-paid executives and could receive a severance package of more than $180 million based on his contract and the terms of his departure, according to CBS filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The media and TV company on Friday disclosed plans for a probe after the New Yorker magazine published an article detailing claims by six women who said Moonves sexually harassed them in incidents between 1985 and 2006. Moonves has said that he "may have made some women uncomfortable by making advances," which he called mistakes that he regretted immensely, but that he understood "'no' means 'no'" and had never used his position to harm anyone's career.

3 GRAFFITI ARTISTS TAKE PART IN UPFEST

A man stops to photograph a new piece of street art by the Nomad Clan called Bemorelisa on the final day of Upfest, one of Europe's largest street art festivals on Monday in Bristol, England. This year the festival has a "Simpsons" theme, with creator Matt Groening handpicking three Upfest artists from across the globe to bring a touch of Springfield to the festival. The annual event, in the hometown of guerrilla artist Banksy, was started in 2008 and now attracts over 300 artists from 70 countries around the world. Held in the Bedminster and Southville areas of Bristol, organizers have sourced the artists 60,000 square feet of surfaces, including buildings, shop fronts and shutters, to paint on while being watched by the public. Some of the graffiti art work is painted on moveable boards and temporary hoardings, but many of the murals on some venues and buildings remain all year until the next festival, becoming local landmarks.

GETTY IMAGES

4 UBER TO STOP DEVELOPING SELF-DRIVING TRUCKS

Uber will stop developing self-driving trucks that have been hauling cargo on U.S. highways, the ride-hailing company said on Monday, seeking to focus its autonomous-vehicle technology solely on cars. Through its acquisition of Otto in 2016, Uber had sought to disrupt freight hauling with self-driving trucks and Uber Freight, its smartphone app that connects truck drivers and shippers. Uber Freight, which has seen "rapid" growth, is unaffected by the decision, the company said. Trucking has been viewed by transportation experts as a natural application for self-driving technology because of the relative predictability of highways compared with busy city streets. Uber had unveiled plans earlier this year to integrate manual trucking with self-driving trucks by deploying the former for short hauls and the latter for longer distances. "We believe having our entire team's energy and expertise focused on (self-driving cars) is the best path forward," Eric Meyhofer, head of Uber Advanced Technologies Group, said in a statement by email.

5 N. KOREA APPEARS TO BE BUILDING ICBMS: REPORT

North Korea appears to be building one or two new liquid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missiles at a factory that produced the country's first missiles capable of reaching the United States, the Washington Post reported on Monday. The newspaper, citing unidentified officials familiar with intelligence reporting, said U.S. spy agencies were seeing signs of the construction at a large research facility in Sanumdong, on the outskirts of Pyongyang. The findings are the latest to suggest ongoing activity in North Korea's nuclear and missile facilities despite arms talks with the United States and a recent summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee last week that North Korea was continuing to produce fuel for nuclear bombs despite its pledge to denuclearize. But he insisted the Trump administration was still making progress in its talks with Pyongyang. Trump said in a Twitter post after his historic summit with Kim in Singapore last month: "Everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office."

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Occupy ICE protester left the side City Hall, but have set up shop a few blocks north at Arch and Broad streets. GETTY IMAGES

Occupy ICE has new demands after PARS win

Protesters relocated and have new demands after Mayor Kenney agreed to not renew a controversial contract allowing data-sharing on arrests with ICE.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The Occupy ICE Philadelphia protesters won a major victory when Mayor Jim Kenney sided with them last week on ending the city's information-sharing contract with ICE.

But while the Occupy-style protesters left the side of City Hall, they aren't done yet — they've just moved a few blocks, to Broad and Arch streets, to see out the city's fulfillment of a promise to change the decade-old policy.

"After complying with the city's 22 hour deadline to decamp from the east side of city hall, we have chosen to move to our new location in order to monitor the situation with the PARS agreement, 'Occupy ICE PHL' organizers said in a statement, "as well as commit resources to our remaining objectives of closing the ICE contracted Berks Family Detention Center as well as the disruption and ultimate abolition of ICE itself."

Immigrant activist groups Juntos and New Sanctuary Movement hailed Kenney's decision to stop allowing the Philadelphia office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to view real-time data about arrests across Philadelphia through the Preliminary Arraignment Reporting System (PARS). Occupy ICE Philadelphia became the most visible opponents of the city's PARS contract in late June, as fury spiked over immigrant children and parents being separated at the border.

"If I could abolish ICE, I would. But we can abolish this contract," Kenney said during his Friday announcement of the change.

The PARS contract with ICE is now reportedly set to expire on Aug. 31.

On Monday, state Rep. Martina White, a Republican representing Northeast Philly and part of Lower Bucks County, took to Fox News to trash Kenney's decision.

"It's truly shocking that the mayor was willing to end a contract that was actually helping to keep our community safe," White said on "Fox & Friends" on Monday, adding that crime victims and witnesses weren't identified in PARS, and said undocumented immigrants who have been the victim of a crime can apply for a U-visa.

Republican candidate for governor Scott Wagner also criticized Kenney and called for state laws pre-empting Kenney's decision.

"It's truly shocking that the mayor was willing to end a contract that was actually helping to keep our community safe."

Martina White

ICE officials said in a statement they were "deeply disappointed" by Kenney's choice.

"Despite these attempts to obstruct ICE's lawful efforts to apprehend criminal aliens, the agency remains committed to its efforts to uphold public safety in the city of Philadelphia," ICE officials said.

But city officials said they had various concerns with ICE's use of the data and the possibility of it leading to immigration actions against people not charged with a crime.

Occupy ICE Philadelphia became the most visible opponents of the city's PARS contract in late June, as fury spiked over immigrant children and parents being separated at the border. Thousands attended protests in late June and early July at which several dozens were detained.

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Bruce B. Garber, MD, FACS, is a Philadelphia-based urologist who's celebrated as one of the nation's leading experts in male erectile dysfunction. He treats patients from all over the world, helping them restore their confidence so they can enjoy healthy, active sex lives.

If you're suffering from erectile dysfunction, you already know just how debilitating it can be. The truth is that it's the reality for tens of millions of men across the country. Metro caught up with Dr. Garber about how they can fix the problem once and for all.

How big of a problem is erectile dysfunction?

We estimate that roughly 30 million men in the U.S. have this problem, and it's an embarrassing, frustrating problem that tends to create a lot of psychological stress. For many men, it leads to depression and anxiety because it undermines their confidence, sometimes to the point where they're afraid to enter into relationships.

What causes it?

There's usually an underlying physical problem. Conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure or cholesterol, prostate cancer, coronary disease—these are all risk factors for erectile dysfunction. Being overweight or a smoker also increases your odds because both affect the blood vessels in the penis.

How is it diagnosed?

I've treated guys from age 20 to 90, and everything in between. We diagnose it by having the man come to our office for an interview and exam. Then we do a medical work-up that includes blood tests to look for a low male hormone level, prostate cancer, high cholesterol and diabetes. We also check the blood flow in the penis, because that's the most common cause of the issue; problems with the penile arteries or veins.

How is it treated?

Getting appropriate treatment often comes down to seeing the right specialist. Unfortunately, primary care physicians can't offer all of the available medical and surgical treatments. Many will just write a prescription for Viagra and not much else. But if that doesn't work for you, you're sort of stuck in the mud. Things like vacuum pumps and penile injection therapy are options, but they're not very patient-friendly.

So what's the best treatment?

The best treatment option is the least invasive one that's effective. However, when conservative measures fail, the best treatment is usually a penile implant, which is what I specialize in. The reason people from all over the world come to see me is that an implant will solve the problem, and I'm one of the top implant surgeons in the U.S. It's an outpatient surgical procedure that uses a permanent inflatable implant. Think of it as a new hydraulic system for the penis. Once it's in and healed, the problem is solved because the guy can inflate it whenever

he wants, and can get an erection as often as he likes and for as long as he likes. Not only does it restore the erection, but it restores confidence, too. Guys who get the implant no longer have performance anxiety.

Do insurance plans cover penile implants?

It depends on the plan, but many do because it is not cosmetic. Penile implants help restore a lost bodily function.

How can I learn more?

We host a free, public meeting every month to share information and talk candidly about diagnosing and treating male erectile dysfunction. Past patients who've undergone penile implant surgery also share their personal stories about how their lives are better for it, which is really powerful.

Had enough of ED? The next Men's Health Community Seminar, is on Saturday, August 11 from 9:45 to 11:00 am at Hahnemann University Hospital. To learn more, call (215) 247-3082 AND visit www.garber-online.com.

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3-D guns are here. A man holds a 3-D printed AR-15 style rifle. GETTY IMAGES

Pennsylvania officials get downloadable 3-D guns blocked in state

AG sued to stop Texas company from offering plans for printable firearms online.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

A Texas company agreed to temporarily block Pennsylvanians from download plans for 3-D guns from its website after intervention from state lawmakers.

The company, Defense Distributed, boasts on its website that on Aug. 1, "The age of the downloadable gun formally begins." It had planned to post files that could be downloaded and used in a 3-D printer to create real guns.

But Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro said the company's website opened its servers earlier — Friday, July 27 — and over the weekend, some 1,000 people downloaded the file to print their own AR-15 rifles.

On Sunday, Shapiro, Gov. Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania State Police sued Defense Distributed to block the website in their home state. After an emergency federal court hearing over the weekend, the company agreed to block Pennsylvania users from accessing the site.

"The harm to Pennsylvanians would have been immediate and irreversible," Shapiro said in a statement. "Defense Distributed was promising to distribute guns in Pennsylvania in reckless disregard of the state laws that apply to gun sales and purchases in our Commonwealth. Once these untraceable guns are on our streets and in our schools, we can never get them back."

Philadelphia previously passed a law illegalizing 3-D guns, which can be created out of plastic using 3-D printers, bypassing all gun sales regulations and typical safety protocols and are often capable of bypassing metal detectors, but can be equally deadly and are capable of firing real bullets.

"The threat of untraceable guns in the hands of unknown owners is too daunting to stand by and not take action," Wolf said in a statement. "The federal government has abdicated its responsibility to keep our citizens safe but we will not be deterred from working to ensure Pennsylvania safety laws are followed and our residents are protected from these dangerous weapons getting in the wrong hands."

"Once these untraceable guns are on our streets and in our schools, we can never get them back."
Pennsylvania AG Josh Shapiro

Defense Distributed recently settled a federal lawsuit, allowing the company to continue distributing plans for 3-D guns online. It charges a membership fee to users but does not check users for gun licenses.

Shapiro's office is suing to make the ban on the website's accessibility in Pennsylvania permanent, arguing that the company violates the state's Uniform Firearms Act. "Defense Distributed has sought to bypass these established legal requirements to instantaneously deliver real, operational firearms to any Pennsylvanian with an internet connection and a 3D printer," the AG's office wrote in its lawsuit.

No fatalities have been reported due to 3-D guns. But ATF tests of certain models found that they indeed can fire real bullets, depending on the type of plastic they are manufactured with, and could potentially be as powerful as real guns.

Defense Distributed did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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Jeff Sessions just created a 'Religious Liberty Task Force,' which he'll lead

Some see it as a vehicle for taxpayer-funded discrimination.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the formation of a "religious liberty task force" today, which some say will encourage discrimination against LGBT people and women.

Sessions made the announcement during the Justice Department's "religious liberty summit." He said the task force will implement a guidance he issued last October which included 20 principles for the executive branch to follow, including that free exercise means a right to act, or not act, and that government shouldn't question people's motives or beliefs.

"In short, we have not only the freedom to worship—but the right to exercise our faith."

Jeff Sessions

"We've seen nuns ordered to buy contraceptives. We've seen U.S. senators ask judicial and executive branch nominees about dogma — even though the Constitution explicitly forbids a religious test for public office. We've all seen the ordeal faced so bravely by Jack Phillips," he said, referring to the Colorado baker who won his Supreme Court case after being found to have violated the state's anti-discrimination laws for refusing to make a cake for a same-sex wedding.

"In short, we have not only the freedom to worship—but the right to exercise our faith. The Constitution's protections don't end at the parish parking lot nor can our freedoms be confined to our basements," he said.

Sessions said the goal was to protect religious groups from persecution. But others say it will be a vehicle for persecution under the guise of religious freedom.

"This taxpayer funded Religious Liberty Task Force is yet another

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GETTY IMAGES

example of the Trump-Pence White House and Jeff Sessions sanctioning discrimination against LGBTQ people," tweeted the Human Rights Campaign on Monday afternoon.

Planned Parenthood Action tweeted: "Let's be real about this "Religious Liberty Task Force." What the administration — which also adopted a Muslim ban — desires isn't "religious liberty." It's another license to discriminate against women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, communities of color, and so many more."

Sessions will lead the task force, which will be co-chaired by Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio and Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy Beth Williams.

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Firefighters gain on sprawling California wildfire, six dead

Nearly 1,000 homes and buildings have been destroyed.

California firefighters on Monday gained ground on a massive wildfire that has killed six people and destroyed hundreds of homes, while rescuers searched for at least seven missing people.

The Carr Fire ignited a week ago outside Redding, about 150 miles north of Sacramento, and doubled in size over the weekend, charring an area half the size of New York City and forcing 38,000 people to flee their homes. Two firefighters, a 70-year-old woman and her two young great-grandchildren were among the dead. Authorities have yet to identify the sixth fatality.

California is bearing the brunt of an extreme run of wildfires across the U.S. West, with erratic winds and record high temperatures charging blazes that have blackened nearly 410,000 acres, the state's highest year-to-date level in a decade.

Four wildland firefighters have been killed in California in 2018, twice as many as in all of 2017, with Carr Fire deaths blamed on swift-moving "firenado" whirlwinds of flames and ash.

"I've been a lifelong resident of this community, and I've never seen a fire with such destruction here in this area ever before," Shasta County Supervisor Leonard Moty said of the Carr Fire during a news briefing.

The blaze is the deadliest of the 98 wildfires burning across the United States. Collectively, wildfires have scorched 4.6 million acres this year, 24 percent more than the 10-year average for the period, according to federal data.

Nearly 3,400 firefighters battling the Carr Fire have begun to gain control of it, cutting containment lines around 20 percent of its perimeter by Monday morning, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

Gale-force winds that drove the fire last week have eased to moderate speeds, but temperatures are set to remain above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the National Weather Service said.

"I've been a lifelong resident of this community, and I've never seen a fire with such destruction here in this area ever before."

Shasta County Supervisor Leonard Moty

Nearly 1,000 homes and other buildings have been destroyed around Redding. Melody Bledsoe, 70, died, together with her great-grandchildren ages 4 and 5 as she held a wet blanket over them, her granddaughter Amanda Woodley said on Facebook.

Residents posted photos of wandering dogs and horses left behind by owners in the rugged region, a popular fishing destination. Evacuation orders were lifted on some areas on Monday.

National Guard troops and police officers were stationed in evacuated neighborhoods to guard against looting.

Two other California blazes 30 miles apart in Mendocino and Lake counties forced the evacuation of over 10,000 people. They were among 17 burning across the state.

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Trump says he is willing to talk to Iran's leader without preconditions

GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump said on Monday he would be willing to meet Iran's leader without preconditions to discuss how to improve ties after he pulled the United States out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, saying, "If they want to meet, we'll meet."

"I'd meet with anybody. I believe in meetings," especially in cases where war is at stake, Trump said at a White House news conference when asked whether he was willing to meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

"If they want to meet, we'll meet. I'd meet with anybody. I believe in meetings."
Donald Trump

In response, Iran said the way back to talks was for the United States to return to the nuclear deal between Iran and six major powers that Trump exited in May.

"Respecting the Iranian nation's rights, reducing hostilities and returning to the nuclear deal are steps that can be taken to pave the bumpy road of talks between Iran and America," Hamid Aboutalebi, an adviser to Rouhani, tweeted on Tuesday.

Washington aims to force Tehran to end its nuclear program and its support of militant groups in the Middle East, where Iran is involved in proxy wars from Yemen to Syria.

Iran and other signatories have been working to find a way to salvage the nuclear agreement, even as the United States has begun reimposing some sanctions on Iran.

No U.S. president has met with an Iranian leader since the Washington cut diplomatic relations with Tehran a year after the 1979 revolution that toppled the shah, a U.S. ally. President Barack Obama broke a three-decade freeze with a phone call to Rouhani in 2013.

The White House clarified that Trump's potential willingness to meet with his Iranian counterpart does not change his administration's intent to ratchet up sanctions and rhetoric against Tehran with the stated goal of "seeking changes in the Iranian government's behavior."

But Trump's remarks did represent a marked softening of tone from a week ago, when he lashed out at Rouhani in a tweet, saying "Never, ever threaten the United States again or you will suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before."

Shortly before that July 22 tweet, Rouhani had addressed Trump in a speech, saying that hostile U.S. policies could lead to "the mother of all wars".

On Monday, speaking at a news conference with visiting Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, Trump said: "I would certainly meet with Iran if they wanted to meet. I don't know that they're ready yet. I ended the Iran deal. It was a ridiculous deal. I do believe that they will probably end up wanting to meet and I'm ready to meet any time that they want to."

Trump said he had "no preconditions" for a meeting with the Iranians, adding: "If they want to meet, I'll meet."

The White House said that even though the president "is open to dialogue and negotiation," it did not mean the United States would lift sanctions or re-establish diplomatic and commercial relations.

"This relief is only possible if there are tangible, demonstrated, and sustained shifts in Tehran's policies," said Garrett Marquis, spokesman for the National Security Council. "Until then, the sting of sanctions will only grow more painful if the regime does not change course."

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Slather on the sunscreen, researchers say

According to U.K. researchers, you're probably not using enough sunscreen,

MEAGAN MORRIS
letters@metro.us

Do you know how much sunscreen to use to really protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays?

Probably not.

If you're like most people, you just haphazardly rub (or spray) some onto your skin and hope for the best. Unsurprisingly, that's not the best way to put on sunscreen — and it's endangering our skin.

According to King's College researchers in London, not using enough sunscreen while in the sun is like using a sunscreen with too little SPF protection.

"There is no dispute that sunscreen provides important protection against the cancer causing impact of the sun's ultraviolet rays. However, what this research shows is that the way sunscreen is applied plays an important role in determining how effective it is," said Antony Young, King's College professor in London.

"This research demonstrates why it's so important to choose an SPF of 30 or more"
Nina Goad

Manufacturers give their sunscreens an SPF rating based on the assumption that people will use 2 milligrams of cream per square centimeter of skin. However, they are only applying about 40 percent of that amount. The result is both sunburn and sun damage.

The problem is that it's not exactly easy to measure out 2 milligrams of sunscreen. Researchers converted how much sunscreen to use into a unit of measurement we can all understand: the teaspoon. Humans need at least half a teaspoon of sunscreen on the face, neck and on each arm, the researchers said. The front of the body (chest and abdomen) need one full teaspoon, as does the back of the body (back and butt) and each leg.

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While using more sunscreen than the prescribed amounts won't necessarily provide more protection, the researchers found that slathering on more than the average person does now can greatly reduce sun damage.

And you should probably invest in a higher SPF sunscreen than you think you need, just to be safe.

"This research demonstrates why it's so important to choose an SPF of 30 or more," Nina Goad of the British Association of Dermatologists said in a statement.

"In theory, an SPF of 15 should be sufficient, but we know that in real-world situations, we need the additional protection offered by a higher SPF."

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Which products are affected by a 'pink tax'?

Sociologists say that women pay more than men for many goods and services.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

Last week, Burger King announced that it would sell Chick Fries (or, the brand's Chicken Fries in a pink box) for the same price as its Chicken Fries. Chick Fries usually cost twice as much, the brand said, but they equalize the prices for one day only. It was a viral marketing stunt to call attention to the "pink tax."

"So not only do women make less, but they pay more."

Candice Elliott, at Listen Money Matters

The pink tax refers to additional money women are charged for products — often packaged in pink — that are identical to products men buy.

And, sorry, the pink tax is not a myth. According to a 2016 report by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, women are charged more than men for identical products 42 percent of the time.

The DCA found that products across most major categories were affected by the pink tax, from baby products to those for senior citizens, or as the study said, "from cradle to cane."

Shampoo marketed to women costs 48 percent more than "men's" shampoo; razors 11 percent more; and lotion 11 percent more. On average, personal care products cost women 13 percent more, the study found.

42%

According to a 2016 report by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, women are charged more than men for identical products 42 percent of the time.

Shirts at one price level cost women 25 percent more, sweaters 20 percent more and jeans 10 percent more. The study even found that adult diapers, canes and supports cost women significantly more than equivalent products marketed to men.

Across every category, the DCA found, on average, that women pay about 7 percent more than men for identical products. That adds up to $1,351 more each year.

"So not only do women make less but they pay more," writes Candice Elliott at Listen Money Matters. "Women also live longer so they actually need more money for retirement. It's a load of crap."

"The problem is, for the most part, this is completely legal," noted Vox in March. "Some states ban charging women more for services (like haircuts or dry cleaning). But consumer goods are still fair game. Ultimately, society expects women to look a certain way. And that way is just more expensive."

But judging by how viral Burger King's stunt went, we might soon see a larger conversation about the pink tax. In April, Rep. Jackie Speier (D-California) introduced the Pink Tax Repeal Act in the House to address the problem.

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

SPOILERS!
I had an experience recently when I was on my way to a movie and I passed a couple who was leaving the theater as I was entering. Just as I walked past them, I overheard them talking about the ending of the movie I was JUST about to see. I stopped dead in my tracks and looked back and said, "Come on, really?" They looked back and realized what they had done and the guy pantomimed a silent "sorry" as they walked away. A much braver version of me would have launched a shoe at them in protest. I get that if a movie or TV show has been out for a few years, it has officially entered the larger pop-culture conversation and is fair game. But if it's something that has just been released, read the room! Not everyone has seen this movie or show yet. Give us time to catch up in a spoiler-free world!

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- **Q,** *Metro Boston reader*

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Aries Your input will make a difference, and actions will show others you mean business. Much can be accomplished if you are diligent about turning your vision into something substantial.

Taurus Before you bring about change, make sure you can afford to do so. Don't allow anyone to talk you into something you don't need. Focus on self-improvements and personal goals.

Gemini An abrupt change will lead to a heated discussion if you aren't diplomatic. If you want something, use your charm and intelligence to get it.

Cancer Do things your way. Show off your unique outlook and ideas. You'll intrigue someone you'd love to collaborate with or get to know better. Love is on the rise.

Leo Don't follow the crowd. You'll be given false information. Do your own thing and be moderate in the way you live and the amount you spend.

Virgo Don't hesitate if you want to make a move. A lifestyle change will affect the way you move forward personally and professionally.

Libra Show what you are capable of doing. Others will notice the results you get. Pour your energy into improvements that will enhance your situation at home.

Scorpio Easy does it. If you are too aggressive in your pursuits, you will not have enough time to finish what you start. Focus on what's most important to you.

Sagittarius Speaking openly will attract someone eager to take advantage of you. Share only information that cannot be used against you. Emotional blackmail should be dealt with intelligently.

Capricorn Focus on contractual agreements and negotiations. You can sway others to see things your way if you use unusual tactics. Incentives will help bring about positive change.

Aquarius Approach partnerships with diplomacy. Have a few ideas that can be incorporated into your plans to satisfy anyone needing a nudge. Travel and educational pursuits will cost more than anticipated.

Pisces If you look for an opportunity, you will find one that will change your life. Heading in a positive direction will give you a new lease on life. Love and romance are highlighted. EUGENIA LAST

See the legend live at Ardmore Music Hall on Aug. 1. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

George Clinton's final funky ride

Before he steps away from touring, the master funkateer opens up about making his first Parliament album in 38 years and more.

A.D. AMOROSI
letters@metro.us

There is no funk without George Clinton — no Childish Gambino, no Kendrick Lamar, no Migos. If Clinton didn't bring the sweat-inducing raw soul at the heart of his best work during the '70s and '80s with the psychedelic Parliament, the guttural Funkadelic or solo starting with "Atomic Dog," funk and hip-hop would have never been made modern and durable.

And now, over 50 years after his start, Clinton is getting ready to wind down with a series of shows between 2018 and 2019 that will lead to his finale. But not before releasing his first new Parliament studio album in 38 years (the recently dropped "Medicaid Fraud Dog"), his first new Funkadelic album in decades ("First Ya Gotta Shake the Gate"), a soon to debut new P-Funk All-Stars record and an appearance at Ardmore Music Hall on Aug. 1.

Clinton says he shut down the once-prolific production of albums by Parliament and Funkadelic after 1980's "Trombipulation" because of difficult business relationships. "Yes, it was the labels and the management that I had at the time. I'm still in court about that period and we're filming a documentary that will tell all about that whole period now. I'll be getting that story our soon. Everyone assumed it was all drugs — that was a tiny part — but it was mostly business woes."

Clinton is now independent, free to do what he wants, when he wants, and his soulful sound has found its words in all things medicinal in " Medicaid Fraud Dog."

"We been high up in this medical thing for a while — Obamacare, pharmaceutical warnings, steep drug pricing,

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opioids," he says. "Used to be all we had to worry about was some bad Tylenol. Now it's everything. The legal pharmaceutical companies are taking over where the pushers left off, and with the government behind them. That's some bad business."

Long before he hit the funk hard, Clinton, a Detroit native, got a job at Motown as a songwriter, not as an artist. Eventually, songwriting alone could not contain the immensity of his sound. "Motown's production line and its diversity inspired me to create different acts such as The Brides of Funkenstein, Parlet, The Horny Horns, and Bootsy's Rubber Band, along with Parliament and Funkadelic — definitely — because I could say and publish so much in so many different ways, and not have people get bored of me."

Another big inspiration was the British Invasion of the mid-'60s, not only in its wild sounds in accordance with R&B and progressive rock ("the Rolling Stones come to mind, so does King Crimson"), buts the clothing of the day. Mention the legendary Granny Takes a Trip boutique in London and its furry, fringed wares, and Clinton, shouts, "Man that's hilarious you're even bringing that up. I mentioned the Stones and Traffic and King Crimson — well, that shop was very influential to us when we got psychedelic. Exactly. See when we started off we came from a very different era. It was all pimp outfits of suits and ties. By the time we got to the '70s, we had everything tailor made to suit our new sound... even the jeans with the wide bellbottoms."

Now, on stage at age 77 and newly remarried, Clinton is still sartorially magnificent, resplendent in derbies, walking sticks and three piece suits, rather than capes and wings.

"But I'm still a pimp, right?" he asks with a laugh. Indeed.

Clinton plans to wrap up his touring days in 2019, so see him while you can.

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Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman

The "Parks and Recreation" duo is back to host a competition series. NBC

The "Parks and Recreation" stars get back together for a reality competition series.

ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

On Feb. 24, 2015, the final episode of NBC's popular mockumentary series "Parks and Recreation" aired. Since then, its stars and creators have scattered to other networks, streaming services and movie studios to explore other projects, but longtime fans of the show have always wished for even the faintest hint of a reunion.

Thanks to Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman's reality competition series "Making It," audiences will be getting just that. Kind of.

In "Making It," eight of the most talented creators and makers from across the country will take on a variety of craft projects in the hopes of impressing co-hosts Poehler and Offerman, and the show's expert judges, Simon Doonan and Dayna Isom Johnson. The eight contestants participating are Joanna Gick, Amber Kemp-Gerstel, Billy Kheel, Robert Mahar, Khiem Nguyen, Jamma Olson, Jeffery Rudell and Nicole Sweeney.

Each of the competition's six episodes will revolve around a theme that draws inspiration from popular nationwide trends in creative and do-it-yourself circles. What's more, each episode will be split into two projects. The first, dubbed "faster-craft," will be a timed challenge that tests the competitors' abilities to work quickly and imaginatively.

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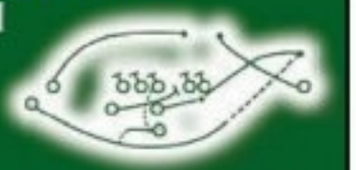

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reunite in 'Making It'

Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman reunite on the small screen with "Making It." PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

As for the second, the "master craft collection," participants will use their expertise to create something that fits that week's theme.

Poehler and Offerman are obviously nothing like their "Parks and Recreation" characters Leslie Knope and Ron Swanson in real life, but the friendship shared between them is palpable in "Making It." This is especially true in a series of "pun-offs" the two competed in for several promotional videos available on YouTube.

So while "Making It" isn't exactly what "Parks and Recreation" diehards may have had in mind for a cast reunion, the opportunity to see Poehler and Offerman making each other giggle again is not something to be missed.

"Making It" premieres July 31 at 10 p.m. on NBC.

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Two results always make Philadelphia football fans ecstatic – Eagles' success and Dallas Cowboys' failure.

So, as the Super Bowl champions kick up training camp in the era of good feelings, it's nice to know things are as dysfunctional as ever in Dallas.

Last week brought a triple dose of drama to Big D; much of it initiated by clownish owner Jerry Jones and his son, VP Stephen Jones. It supports the theme that Dallas is replacing Washington as the division's most fractured franchise.

The biggest splash was made by ex-Cowboy wide receiver Dez Bryant, who chafed at Stephen Jones saying on the radio that Dak Prescott's regression last season stemmed from Bryant's constant carping in the young quarterback's ear.

Bryant launched a Trumpian Twitter rant. He called Jerry Jones "clueless," termed coach Jason Garrett's play-calling "predictable garbage," and accused ex-teammates Travis Frederick and Sean Lee (whom he called "Snake") of conspiring to get him cut.

You can dismiss this as the ravings of a receiver scorned, and there's merit to that. But there's also a nugget of truth, at least in Dez's ravaging of the play calling. The offense was bland last year, and Prescott backslid under offensive coordinator Scott Linehan and Garrett, whose biggest contribution often appears to be clapping his hands like a seal.

In addition to that, there's a theory among NFL insiders smarter than I that former quarterback Tony Romo's ability to read the field (as shown by his TV work last season) covered for the insipid game plans. Obviously, Prescott, in his second season, did not have the experience to overcome his coaches.

Even as the Bryant theater played out, Jerry Jones battled him for headlines. Jerry publicly undercut a league national anthem policy he actually voted for two months earlier by decreeing every player must "put a toe on the line" during "The Star Spangled Banner." Stephen Jones took it further, saying no players could stay in the locker room during the anthem "if they want to be a Dallas Cowboy," and implying all who did would be cut.

Regardless of where you stand on the anthem controversy (and I respect the passion on both sides), it's hard to justify the Jones boys violating an NFL gag order and going rogue with their own policy while other owners and the union quietly try to work out a compromise.

It also put Cowboys players in a no-win position when asked if they back their owner or their union.

"He's the boss," 2017 first-round pick Taco Charlton said of Jerry. "That's above my pay grade."

Charlton, like every Cowboy questioned on the issue, said he would stand for the anthem. Meanwhile, Eagles safety and NFL Players Coalition leader Malcolm Jenkins called Jerry Jones "a bully," adding, "Lucky for me, I don't play for the Cowboys."

Finally, news broke far from Dallas that bodes ominously for America's former team. Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley signed a four-year, $60 million deal, with $45 million guaranteed. The contract sets a new benchmark for elite running backs like Le'Veon Bell, David Johnson, and Ezekiel Elliott.

Gurley is one season ahead of Elliott, which means Dallas could start working to redo Elliott's deal in the next year, or just try to hold him to his rookie contract – which never goes well. And with Prescott and defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence also eager for long-term money, the Cowboys have tough decisions on the horizon.

Sure, that's down the road. But there's a great chance for discord, and as an Eagles fan, I look forward to it.

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It's a tale as old as time: The more the Cowboys struggle, the happier Eagles fans are. GETTY IMAGES

Phils targeting starters ahead of the deadline

The MLB trade deadline is this afternoon.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

Could the Phillies make another trade with their NL East rival, before today's 4 p.m. deadline? There's a strong possibility that they could.

Last week, Philadelphia acquired second baseman Asdrubal Cabrera from the New York Mets and is now in the running for one of their starting pitchers.

Jon Heyman of FanCred reported Monday that the Phillies along with the Atlanta Braves, Milwaukee Brewers, and New York Yankees have shown a lot of interest in Mets starting pitcher Zack Wheeler. Wheeler and ace pitcher Jacob deGrom have been the subject of trade rumors over the last month. This season has been a disappointment for the Mets, who are in last place in the National League East.

Heyman added in his report that no team has met the asking price for Wheeler and if that doesn't change, he will be stay in New York.

This season has been a revelation for the 23-year-old starting pitcher. Wheeler started out the year rough with a record of 2-4 and 5.32 ERA in eight starts.

He had also given up 26 earned runs, 17 walks, six home runs and racked up 47 strikeouts, over that span of time. It was not a good time for Wheeler, who was trying to figure things out, after missing a couple of seasons due to Tommy John surgery.

However, Wheeler reminded everybody this month why he was a first-round pick back in 2009. He has a record of 3-0 with an ERA of 3.13 in five starts.

The right-handed pitcher also limited his home runs (2) and walks (11), while compiling 30 strikeouts during this recent stretch of success.

On Sunday against the Pittsburgh Pirates, he had a dominating performance leading the Mets to victory, striking out seven over six innings pitched and only gave up five hits.

With all that being known, it is not a surprise to see teams are interested in Wheeler.

However, if you are the Phillies, how much are you willing to give up for the young arm?

When they acquired Cabrera last week, the Phillies sent minor league pitcher Franklyn Kilome to the Mets, who was their No. 10 rated prospect, according to MLB Pipeline.

If the Phillies wanted Wheeler, who is set for arbitration in 2019 and free agency the following year, it would probably cost them a few top-10 prospects.

Nevertheless, the potential addition of Wheeler would give the Phillies' starting rotation a boost for the stretch run as Nick Pivetta has struggled recently.

If the Phillies cannot afford Wheeler or do not want to restock the Mets' farm system, then the Tampa Bay Rays might be a possible trade partner for them. Over the weekend, Mark Topkins of the Tampa Bay Times reported that the Phillies along with nine others have expressed some sort of interest in 29-year-old starting pitcher Chris Archer. Even though he has a 3-5 record and an ERA of 4.31, Archer could possibly help out a contending team that needs a starting pitcher.

Topkins also reported Sunday that "there is a strong sense around the game that the Rays are more willing than ever before" to trade the 29-year-old Archer.

With these potential trade scenarios or any deal that they do make, the Phillies must keep their eyes not only on the short-term but also the long-term goals.

Zack Wheeler is one of the top players said to be available in a trade ahead of today's deadline. GETTY IMAGES

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Court of Common Pleas for The County Of Philadelphia. May 23, 2018, Number 1233. The Notice is Hereby Given that on May 23, 2018 the petition of Michael Anthony Monzo was filed praying for decree to change his name to: Michael Anthony Capozza. The court has fixed August 2, 2018, at 12:30 PM., in Courtroom 691, City Hall Philadelphia, PA., for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the petition may not be granted.

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, June term, 2018, No. 003796. Notice is hereby given that on July 3, 2018, the petition of: Rafael Ramos was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to: Rafael Arroyo Jr. The Court has fixed court date August 9, 2018, at 9:00 AM, in Room No. 691 for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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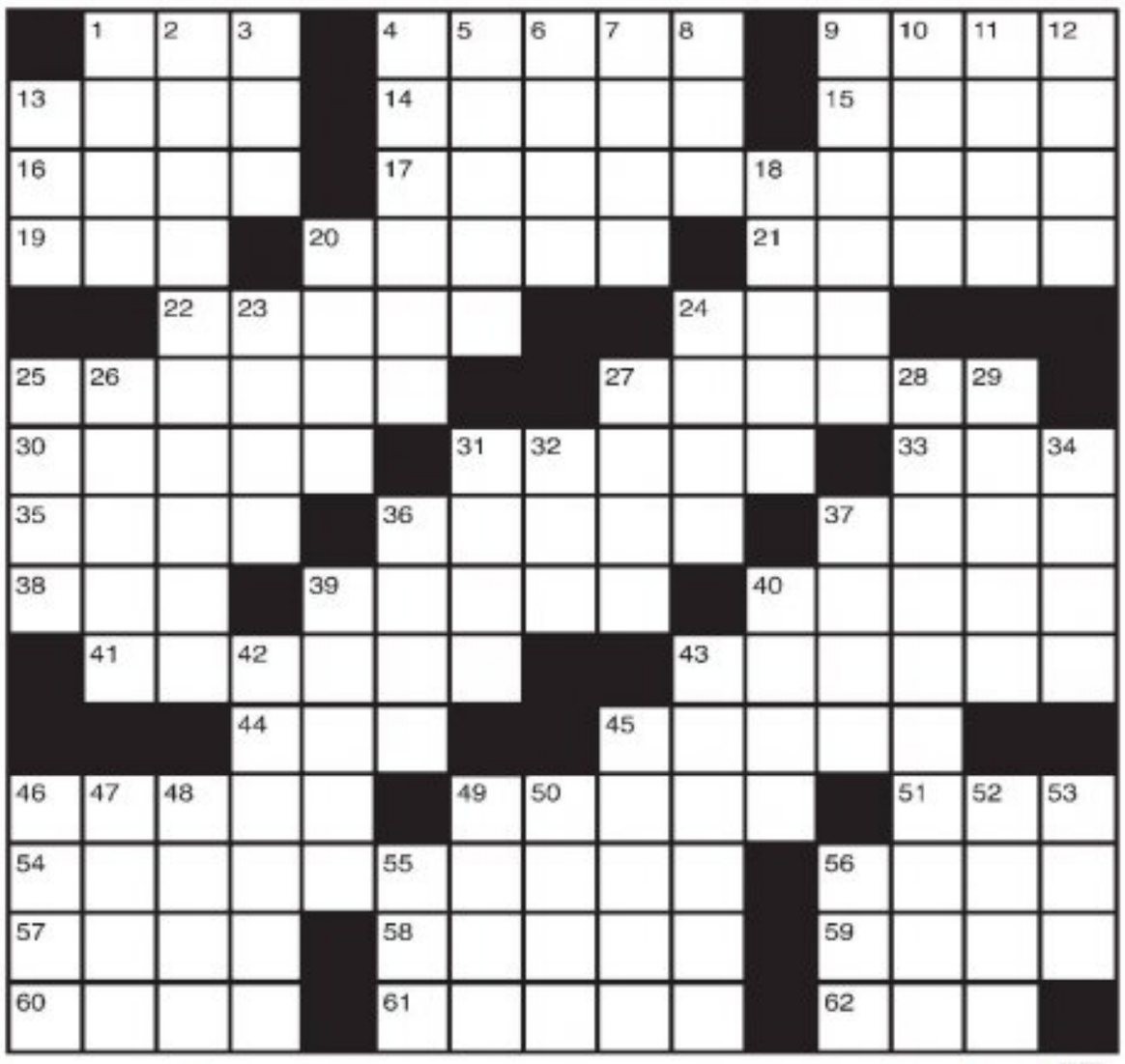

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ACROSS

1 Piece of china
4 Peruvian natives
9 Unsightly skin mark
13 Window glass
14 India's first prime minister
15 Explorer Marco
16 Fissure; split
17 Rockets
19 __ pedestal; lovingly honored
20 Night lights
21 Uptight
22 Traveler's stop
24 Mustang or Maxima
25 Mistake
27 Most underhanded
30 Steve or Woody
31 Native of the Far East
33 Journal
35 Put on weight
36 Dense group of bees
37 Minstrel's instrument
38 "I __ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
39 Part of USMC
40 Native of Italy's capital
41 Weapons storage facility
43 Barney __; Fred Flintstone's pal
44 Bullring cheer
45 Paddled boat
46 Higher than
49 Bit of parsley
51 Wine color
54 Signed up
56 Dishonest one
57 Give a hoot
58 Wed without fanfare
59 __ in a blue moon; seldom
60 Colors
61 Birch tree with catkins
62 Word of disgust

DOWN

1 Abel's brother
2 Strange; alien
3 Teacher's favorite
4 Foot part
5 Himalayan nation
6 Burn slightly
7 Rainbows
8 Take to court
9 Globe
10 Nickel or dime
11 Lofty mountains
12 Got up
13 In favor of
18 Laundry problem
20 Flabbergast
23 Daytime shop window sign
24 Boston __ chowder
25 Long story
26 Pack animal
27 Gentlemen
28 Getting some shut-eye
29 Sum
31 Amiss; askew
32 Maple tree secretion
34 Actor Hackman
36 __ as a boil
37 Gray wolf
39 Nat King and Old King
40 Ladder piece
42 Films
43 Oakland athlete
45 Thin pancake
46 Prefix for angel or enemy
47 Actor Bridges
48 Meanie
49 __ down the river; betray
50 Nudge
52 Every
53 Rap's Dr. __
55 Oolong or pekoe
56 __ Diamond Phillips

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O	O	D	I	R	E	G	D	I	D
A	C	A	M	A	P	C	D	O	M
N	R	X	S	K	I	T	U	T	O
E	W	O	X	A	P	H	O	O	N
U	T	P	K	N	C	E	C	K	O
Q	H	H	I	T	A	R	A	R	C
V	F	O	L	E	L	E	R	H	H
M	H	N	S	L	A	M	I	L	O
H	A	E	U	E	T	I	N	I	R
G	Q	R	G	Y	S	N	A	L	D

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9				2	7		8	
8			5		1		9	7
			8			6		5
7		4	6		5	8		3
6		8			3			
4	8		1		6			2
	2		7	5				4
	6			4		3	5	

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■	■	M	O	T	E	L	■	■	C	A	R	■	■	■
S	L	I	P	U	P	■	■	S	L	I	E	S	T	■
A	L	L	E	N	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	L	O	G
G	A	I	N	■	S	W	A	R	M	■	L	U	T	E
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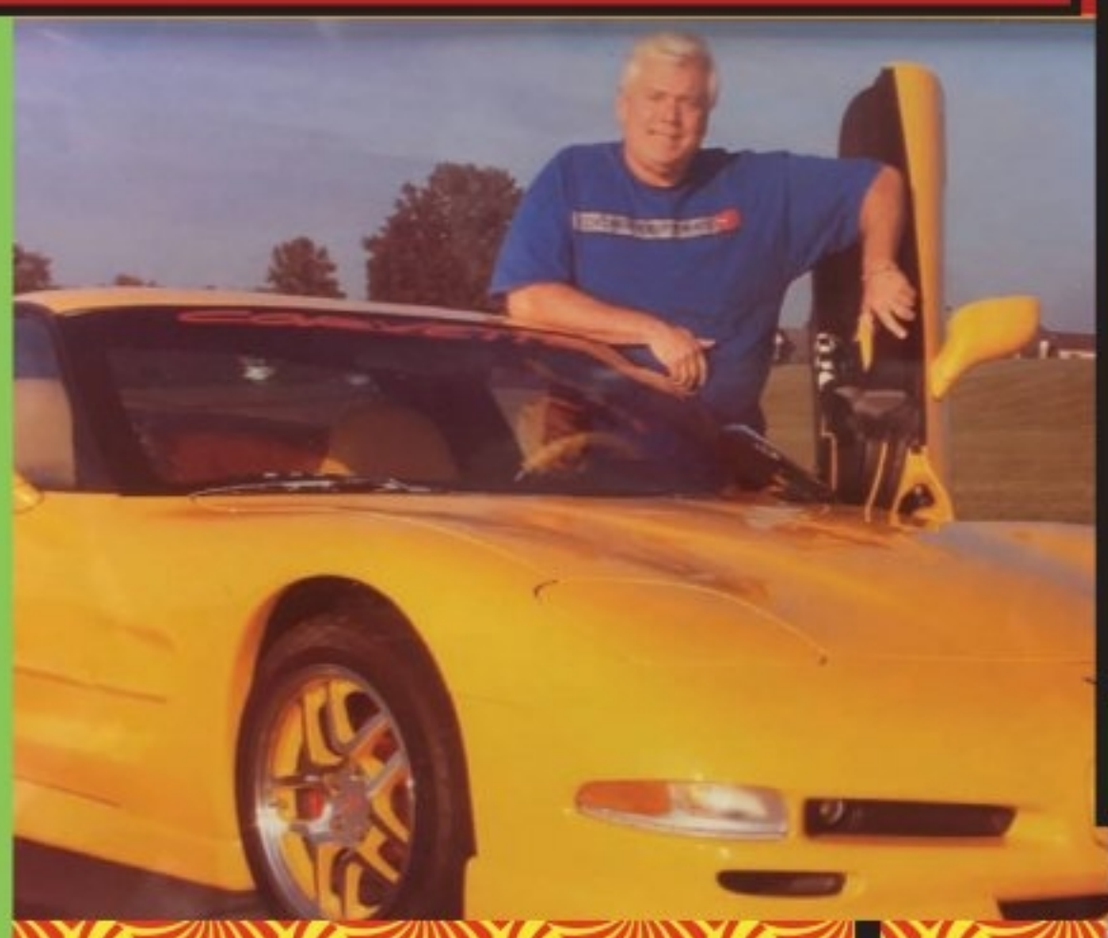
Come out for our 3rd Annual Car Show honoring Dr. David Bresler

Sunday August 5th
10am - 2pm
211/240 Geiger Road
Phila., PA 19115

Top 70+ Awards

Live Music

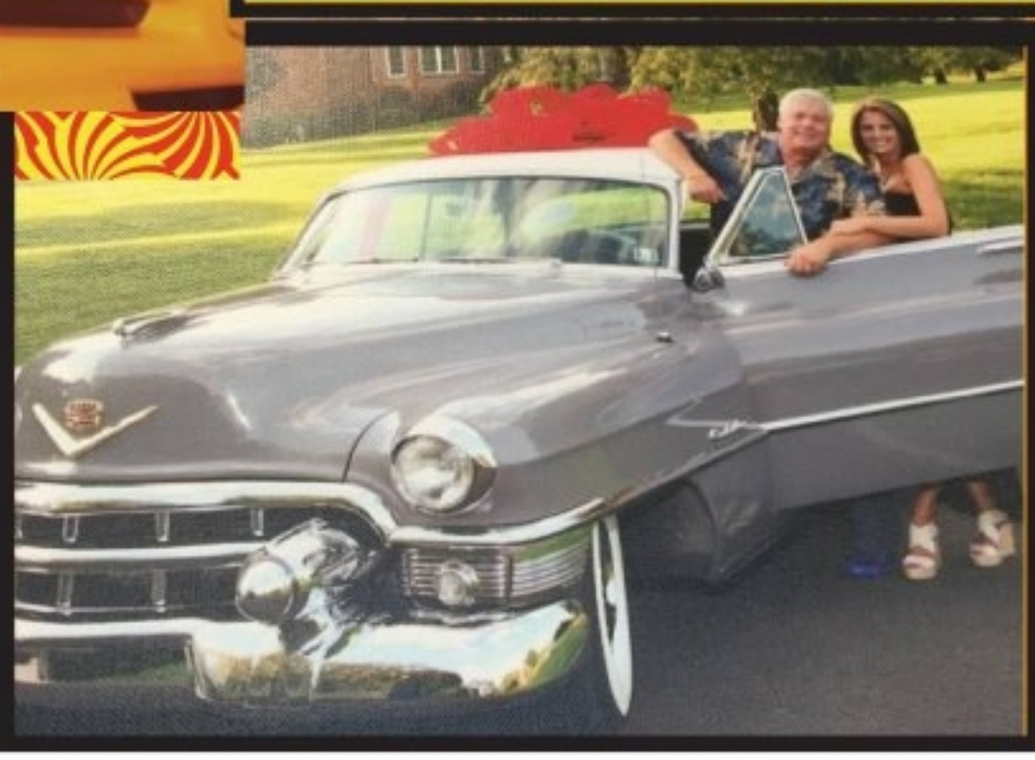


Rain Date August 12th
10am to 2pm

Registration $20

Proceeds benefit
The Sunshine Foundation
& Temple Dental Haiti
Foundation

Food Vendors



Baskets 50/50

Hosted by Doc's family, friends
& Cavity Buster's employees

For more info contact
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